



Media Release

New Advisory Group Selected to Help Focus Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Funding Efforts

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board today announced the members of an advisory group formed to help identify needs and designate spending priorities for the recently created Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.

The 19 members of the [Advisory Group](#) for Implementation of the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund were chosen from among 50 applicants and include representatives from public water systems, technical assistance providers, local agencies, nongovernmental organizations, the public and residents served by community water systems in disadvantaged communities, state small water systems, and domestic wells.

The Advisory Group reflects a focus on transparent collaboration and community participation that is essential to effectively implement the fund.

“The level of community interest was notable and encouraging,” said Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel. “We wanted to ensure broad-based representation. Unfortunately, not all who applied could be chosen, but that doesn’t limit participation on this critical work. There will be significant ongoing opportunity for engagement at the Board and with the Group, as we collectively identify community needs for safe drinking water.”

The Advisory Group was formed pursuant to Senate Bill 200, which established the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund and provides \$130 million a year for 10 years to help local water systems provide safe, reliable drinking water to communities across California and begin closing the safe drinking water gap for more than one million Californians. The landmark legislation was the product of a collaborative effort among community leaders, elected officials and Governor Gavin Newsom, who signed the [measure into law on July 24](#).

SB 200 calls for the formation of an [Advisory Group](#) to advise the Board in developing a fund expenditure plan. The group also will assist the [Board in tracking the program’s progress](#), including its impact on the number of Californians with safe drinking water, the effectiveness of water system administrators, and outcomes of water system consolidations.



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The Advisory Group will meet quarterly in locations throughout the state to provide as many opportunities as possible for public and community input. Meetings will be widely publicized, and Spanish translation services will be offered. The first meeting will be held in Sacramento on Jan.13 (tentative date).

Members of the Advisory Group will serve on a voluntary basis but will receive travel reimbursement so financial burdens do not discourage participation. Future members will be appointed to staggered two-year terms so the Board will be able to receive input from different people and organizations over the decade-long life of the fund.

Much of the investment over the next decade is expected to target water systems in need of infrastructure upgrades, including modernizing water treatment facilities to address chronic contamination involving arsenic, nitrates and an array of other chemicals, and likely to involve public participation. Until then, such short-term remedies as community filling stations, point-of-use treatment options or bottled water deliveries will be part of the SB 200 expenditures.

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